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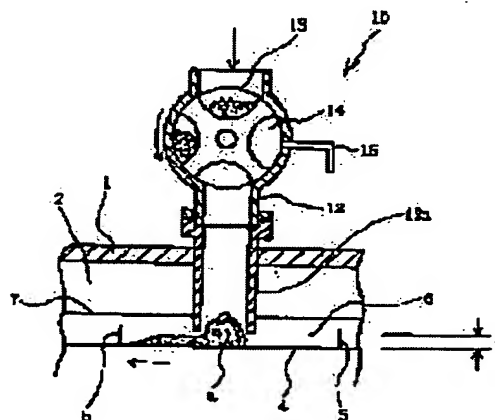
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(54) CONTINUOUS STERILIZATION OF RICE GRAIN AND APPARATUS THEREFOR

(57)Abstract:

PROBLEM TO BE SOLVED: To provide a sterilization process for rice grains which can effectively sterilize microorganisms distributing on the surface of rice grains, can boil rice without deterioration of its flavor and deliciousness and can produce a pack of boiled rice of high quality storable for a long period of time by tightly seal-packing the boiled rice.

SOLUTION: A conveyer belt 5 perforated with a plurality of small through-holes is equipped with a plurality of partition walls 5 at a prescribed interval on its surface to partition the surface of the conveyer belt 4 into several treatment sections 6. At the same time, this conveyer belt 4 is partially covered with a shielding plate 7 set above the cover. A prescribed amount of rice grains (a) is placed in each treatment section 6 and individual treatment sections are tentatively blocked with the shielding plate 7, when the treatment sections pass through under the plate 7. Under these conditions, steam is introduced from steam injectors set beneath the conveyer belt 4 through perforated small holes into the treatment sections thereby sterilizing the rice grains in every unit of a prescribed amount contained in each treatment section.



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